

RESOLUTION

*~ Adopted at the African American Education Summit ~
October 23, 2004*

- Whereas,** Many African American youth have been left behind in the public education system in the state of Washington, and
- Whereas,** African American youth met, discussed, and set in motion a plan to come together in a statewide conference to examine their issues and strategize for positive change, and
- Whereas,** The current system is not set up to ensure the success of ethnically diverse and low socio-economic students, particularly African Americans, and
- Whereas,** Student achievement for African American students lags considerably behind other students, and
- Whereas,** It is the paramount duty of the state to make ample provision for the education of all children residing within its borders, without distinction or preference on account of race, color, caste, or sex, and
- Whereas,** A transformed education system is needed that honors all students in a holistic manner – accounting for their various worldviews, languages, learning styles, cultural heritages, and multiple intelligences, and
- Whereas,** The continuing academic achievement gap is evidence that the curriculum and instruction in our schools are not meeting the individual needs of all students, and
- Whereas,** There exists a great need for the development of cultural competence for all persons associated with the educational delivery system, and
- Whereas,** Many of our African American youth have language difficulties that impact their learning yet this problem is neither acknowledged nor addressed,
- Whereas,** A representative cross-section of African Americans from throughout the state met in an Education Summit on October 22 – 23, 2004 at Meany Middle School in Seattle, Washington to discuss strategies and adopt an action plan to reclaim our children and restore their hope in the future, and
- Whereas,** Legislative involvement is a necessary part of seeking solutions to the educational problems of our youth, and
- Whereas,** Our parents and communities must partner with schools and other service providers to our youth in order to maximize resources and improve learning outcomes.
- Be it resolved** that the African American community commits itself to reverse the trends of academic failure among many of our youth by uniting in our efforts to address the issues that impact their growth and development, and
- Be it further resolved** that this Summit is the launching of a continuous activity and is the beginning of a new movement to reclaim our youth and improve their chances for success in the 21st century and beyond.

Confirmed this day, October 23, 2004 and approved by the signatories on the attached pages.